



The Canal Zone Philatelist



Vol. 30, No. 1

First Quarter, 1994

Whole No. 110

President's Report

Richard D. Bates, Jr.

P.O. Box 40583

Palisades Station

Washington D.C. 20016

Surprise! Surprise! I suddenly find myself running the CZSG Mail Sale for this year. This prompts me to say a few words about why we have a Mail Sale and how you can participate. I will deal in this report with participation as a consignor. I have given a detailed description of this process previously (CZP 86:1), so I will summarize the salient points here.

First, what function does this Sale serve? Three major purposes come to mind. First, it provides a mechanism through which members can sell material they may no longer need. This includes members (or their heirs) disposing of their collections after changes in interest or circumstance. Very good prices are realized for quality and/or unusual material. And the costs are low as the only charge made to consignors is 10% commission. Postage costs are charged to buyers. Second, it provides an unusual opportunity for members and outsiders to add items to their collections. This is a highly specialized sale that includes only Canal Zone and related material. No other sale provides the breadth of Canal Zone material offered. And third, proceeds from the Sale (above costs) go

(Continued on page 2)

1994 Mail Sale

Consignments for the 23rd mail sale should be sent to arrive between June 6 and July 1, 1994. Certificates are required on all Scott Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 15. Please ship material insured or registered and include an inventory. The sale will be held in late September or early October. Send material to:

Richard D. Bates, Jr.

P.O. Box 40583

Palisades Station

Washington, DC 20016

Postage Due Varieties, II

by David J. Leeds

Continued from CZP 109:30

Blue Dues Varieties

A number of unreported or unpositioned broken letter varieties exist on the "blue" dues (Scott J21-J25) overprints. The 1¢ J21 appears particularly vulnerable; however, this may be only the result of the stamps available for inspection rather than of faulty type. The overprint was applied to the as-issued 5¢ panes of 50, but most of the preserved panes in collectors' hands have been stripped of the straight edges so that positioning of the loose stamps is awkward or even impossible. A clue to determine position is that only right-hand panes of the 1¢ were overprinted.

The easiest variety to find and identify has straight edges on the left and top. Obviously, this is position 1 of a lower right pane. Most (about a dozen) copies of the 1¢ checked have a broken G in POSTAGE (Fig. 1). The lower portion of the G is missing.



Fig. 1. Broken G of POSTAGE, J21.

Another constant on the 1¢ J21 is a very small nick out of the lower left corner of the E of DUE (Fig. 2). It is position 5, straight edge top, lower right pane. This flaw is also present in the same position 5 of the 10¢ J24, observed on a complete lower left pane (Fig. 3). Position 5 in this pane would have straight edges top and right.

The broken E in POSTAGE on the 1¢ stamps with most of the vertical bar



Fig. 2. Broken E of 1¢ DUE, J21.

missing mentioned in *Canal Zone Stamps* is from position 6, 11, or 16 of either the upper or lower right pane (Fig. 4). Again, a dozen copies, all with left straight edge, have been found.

Lower left complete panes of the 10¢ J24 have other flaws. Position 33 has a

(Continued on page 3)

Meeting Notices

The Canal Zone Study Group will convene for its annual West Coast meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 30, 1994, at the Cathedral Hill Hotel, Van Ness Avenue and Geary Boulevard, in San Francisco, California. This will be our 24th consecutive meeting to be held in conjunction with the annual WESTPEX stamp show. Details/questions from R.H. Salz, 60-27th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94121.

PIPEX 94 will host a meeting of Canal Zone collectors at the show site, Valley River Center, Eugene, Oregon, Friday night May 27, 1994 at 7:00 p.m. Contact Leonard G. Lukens, P.O. Box 117, Phoenix, Oregon 97535 for details.

The Canal Zone Philatelist (ISSN 0746-044 X)

A.P.S. Affiliate No. 42

David J. Leeds, Editor

P.O. Box 491472

Los Angeles, CA 90049

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One column, five inches	20.00
Two columns, five inches	35.00

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Back issues of the journal, handbooks, and other publications can be ordered from Richard F. Murphy, 501 Rosebud Lane, Greer, SC 29650.

Articles and information for publication should be sent to David J. Leeds, P.O. Box 491472, Los Angeles, CA 90049. Manuscripts should be typed double space or printed copy. Glossy photographs are desirable for figures of stamps or covers; however, enlarged high quality photocopies are sometimes acceptable. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds. If you need help, write or phone the Editor: (310) 472-0282. The author must advise the Editor if the article has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

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Canal Zone Study Group

Auctions

by Robert J. Karrer, Jr.

An array of officials on cover offered by Phillips, Box 611388, North Miami, FL 33261-1388 brought record prices for some items. All are legal size Civil Aeronautics Administration envelopes in the usual commercial condition. Add 10% to hammer price.

CO1, CO5, & CO 6, \$90

CO1 & CO6, \$90

CO1 & CO7, \$270

CO2 & CO6 (vert. pr.), \$180

CO3 & CO5, \$38

CO5, \$23

O2 & Blk of 4 O3, \$350

Auctions

by Gilbert N. Plass

This quarter I report on the auction prices at several of the smaller auctions that have occurred plus our own Canal Zone Study Group Mail Sale. This latter sale "year in and year out" is usually the largest sale of the year. It is particularly noted in having stamps in all price ranges. In the following list all stamps are unused and have no major defects unless noted otherwise. Catalogue prices are not given this time as the Scott catalogue is being completely repriced.

Scott No. 10, block of 4, UL stamp with spaced "AL", \$58 Schiff

10b, ng, short perf., "L" sideways, \$650 Schiff

12c "CANAL ZONE" double, \$380 Schiff

13c, double "PANAMA", \$340 Schiff

14b, "CANAL ZONE" inverted, \$800 CZSG

14f, "8 cts" double, \$420 Schiff

15, f/vf, \$1700 Schiff

22a, horizontal pr., imperf between, \$850 CZSG

22c, double ov., \$230 Schiff

23c, double ov., \$360 Schiff

23d, double ov., one diagonal, \$525 Schiff

24c, double ov., \$360 Schiff

25a, horizontal pair, imperf. between, \$900 Schiff

26, with diagonal "Bliss" postage due forerunner, \$340 Schiff

32c, handmade booklet pane of 6, \$480 CZSG

36a, "10cts" inverted, \$190 Schiff

46, \$125 Schiff

55e, booklet pane of 6, \$1800 CZSG

56b, double ov., one reading down, \$210 Schiff

56f, "ZONE" double, \$625 Schiff

67a, ov. reading down, \$480 CZSG

69var, 7 values of Arms type, not issued, \$1050 Schiff

71+71d, "CANAL" only and "ZONE CANAL", \$1600 CZSG

81, \$210 CZSG

84a, "CANAL" only, \$900 CZSG

85, plate block of 6, \$280 Schiff

87var, wrong font "CANAL", \$440 CZSG

90var, wrong font "ZONE" in block of 4, \$650 CZSG

91a+91c, pair, "ZONE" only and "ZONE CANAL", \$1650 CZSG

157a, "missing" bridge, nh, TL corner margin block of 4, \$36,800 Christie's

CO8-12, used, CTO, \$550 CZSG

J2, \$46 CZSG

O1-2, O4-7, O9, \$36 CZSG

O8, used, CTO, \$280 CZSG

J17b, in pair, "E" of "POSTAGE" omitted, \$300 CZSG

J18a, "ZONE ZONE" in block of 9, \$1150 Schiff

UF1, used, \$1450 CZSG

UX6, \$850 CZSG

The addresses of the above auctioneers are given below. Please mention CZP when writing for catalogues. Auctioneers please send catalogues with prices realized to: Gilbert N. Plass, P.O. Box 4271, Bryan, TX 77805.

Christie's, 502 Park Ave., New York, NY 10022; Irwin Siegel, Box 122, Canarsie Station, Brooklyn, NY 11236; CZSG stands for Canal Zone Study Group.

President's Report

(Continued from page 1)

directly to support publication activities (handbooks, etc.) of the CZSG.

So how do you get in on all the fun? Naturally, you must be a member to submit material. But you must be selective in what you send. The scarce or unusual is most desirable. Items that are commonly available, particularly if not in the best condition, do not sell well and are generally returned, either without being included in the Sale or unsold. Please do not submit junk. Be prepared for such material to be lumped into one large lot or returned.

It is important for the consignor to include an inventory. This makes it easier to check in the material when it arrives. These packages are also more likely to be processed early and less apt to have material returned. Packages that arrive at the last minute often have much of the material sent back.

Flaws should be described; the person running the Sale cannot catch everything, and the item will wind up coming back to you if misdescribed. You should state what you believe to be the condition and provide an estimate for anything not standard. But please realize that the person doing the descriptions may alter what you say if needed to make it consistent with other material in the Sale.

If you wish receipt of your package acknowledged, enclose a return envelope or card. Otherwise, you will not hear anything until the material is lotted and a list of your items is sent to you.

With this in mind, I encourage you to submit material. It is the buyers and sellers that make it work; without either we would not have much of a Sale.

Postage Due Varieties

(Continued from page 1)

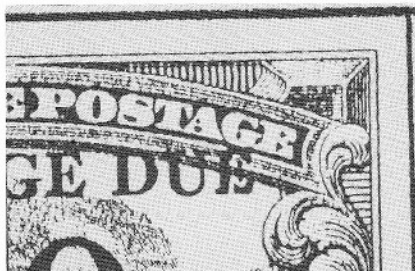


Fig. 3. Broken E of 10¢ DUE, J24.



Fig. 4. Broken E of POSTAGE, J21.

club-footed E (Fig. 5). Position 40 has a very weak lower right portion of the G which has not been confirmed as constant.



Fig. 5. Club-foot E of DUE, J24.

The same broken E of DUE shown in Figs. 2, 3, and 4 is also present in another top row, lower pane, straight edge of the 1¢ J21. In addition, it has a much more visible hole punched out of the left midsection of the 1 (Fig. 6).



Fig. 6. Punched 1, J21.

An odd perforation variety is occasionally found, mostly due to the foldovers of corner margins, as in the 2¢, J22 (Fig. 7).



Fig. 7. Freak Perf, J22.

Designer Autographed Panes, J25-J29

Director of Posts Crede Calhoun and Postal Inspector Stacey Russell are credited (in *Canal Zone Stamps*) with the design of the definitive Postage Due Series of 1932, J25-J29. A set of the 5 panes, recently noted, has the autograph (in black ink) of Meade Bolton in the selvage. See Fig. 8. Since neither Calhoun nor Russell previously demonstrated any artistic talent, it is possible that they suggested the design, but more than probable that Bolton accomplished the final product. It should be noted that the autographs were not contemporaneous with the date of issue since the 1¢ is the dry printing variety (issued much later) and the 15¢ was not issued until 1941. The positions of the autograph vary: 1¢ LR on LR pane, 2¢ LR on LL pane, 5¢ LR on LL pane, 10¢ LR on LL pane, and 15¢ LR on LR pane.

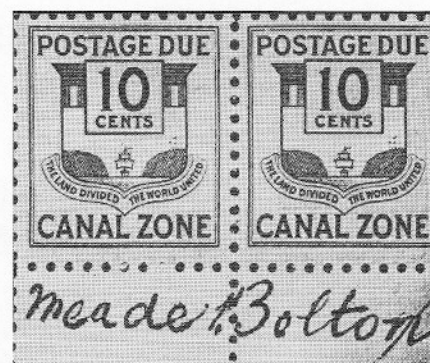


Fig. 8. Meade Bolton Autograph on J28.

Editorial Comment on the "Blue" Dues:

Prohibition against the sale of mint or favor cancelled postage dues continued until the disposal of remainders of the "blue" dues, J21-J24. It is difficult for the writer to understand why this issue of dues is considered more desirable mint than used. Some 99.9% of the mint blue dues on the market are remainders and should be treated as such. As soon as the definitive dues were available after January 2, 1932, all stocks of the blue dues were sold mint by the Philatelic Agency. These went out in panes until stocks were exhausted. Until that time it was a rare uncanceled example that escaped mid-pane or in a block. Any mint dues purchased before 1932 (except for the handful of the first issue sold cancelled in 1916) were in strict violation of post office regulations and had to be to a back door, under-the-counter transaction. Market values reflect the degree to which postal clerks followed the rules. Following this rationale, used blue dues should be more desirable than mint since they had to be legitimately cancelled; the mint blue dues were sold indiscriminately as remainders.

The Editor would welcome a more thorough discussion of these and other varieties.

Research Request

Trying to determine
the quantities of the
Wet; Dry-Shiny,
&

Dry-Dull Printings of
CZ Nos. 105-117

Have data
from 1929-1971
Need quantities
from 1972-79
Any information
greatly appreciated

Joseph M. Napp
5 Knollwood Drive
West Orange, NJ 07052

International Reply Coupons

by David J. Leeds

International Reply Coupons (IRCs) are furnished by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) or by the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain (UPAE) to their member countries. A purchaser in the country of origin can then send them to correspondents in other countries to be exchanged for current postage stamps of that country for a return letter.

UPU IRCs were introduced in the United States in 1907 (see Scott's *Specialized United States Catalogue*). One coupon paid for a first class stamp, two for airmail. It is presumed that these coupons were exchangeable in the Canal Zone and may even have been sold over the counter. None has been reported as originating there. Figs. 1 and 2 are the first evidence we have seen of redemption in the Canal Zone. Ordinarily the redeemed coupons would have been accounted for by the Post Office and eventually destroyed. These were trash-bin acquisitions so are probably not common.

The coupon shown in Fig. 1 was purchased in Philadelphia August 18, 1941 and redeemed in Balboa January 9, 1942. Another example, not shown, was purchased in Baltimore October 19, 1942 and redeemed at Balboa December 18, 1942. Fig. 2 is the version supplied Germany but in this case sold in Vienna, Austria June 27, 1941 and redeemed at Balboa January 9, 1942. The Scott Type B4 UPU coupons shown are 114 x 73 mm, blue with a yellowish underprint, on white paper.

UPAE coupons were in use from 1936 until March 1, 1956 and limited to correspondence between nations of Latin American and Spain. They are 129 x 79 mm, dark green on white paper. They were issued by Spain, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Salvador, and Venezuela. The 15c face value was exchangeable for the equivalent of 15 centimes of a gold franc in the country which exchanged it.

UPAE coupons were also redeemable in the Canal Zone, as evidenced by Fig. 3. The coupon shown originated in San Salvador March 27, 1942 and was cashed at Balboa September 20, 1942. Two additional El Salvador examples (not illustrated) were purchased December 17, 1942 and redeemed December 28, 1942. This short cashout time and the fact that there were two suggest that the letter carrying them was airmail and required an airmail answer.

A note from our readers of other examples from the Canal Zone or Panama would be appreciated.



Fig. 1. UPU IRC U.S. #11, Type B4.



Fig. 2. UPU IRC Germany, Type B4.



Fig. 3. UPAGE IRC El Salvador, Type I.

Secretary's Report

John C. Smith
408 Redwood Ln.
Schaumburg, IL 60193

DUES ARE DUE!

As of February 6, we start 1994 with 864 active members, including 109 who have not paid their dues yet. You should have received your 1994 dues notice by now. The dues are still \$8.00 for regular membership. Please remember to send in your 1994 dues as soon as possible. It will save me from sending out reminder notices. You may even want to consider paying years in advance to save yourself time and postage. Contributing members who pay at least \$15 and Sustaining members who pay at least \$25 will be recognized in the Third Quarter CZP.

Election

Committee Report

The Canal Zone Study Group Election Committee reports that, as of Dec. 30, 1993, 424 ballots had been received with the following results:

President:

Richard D. Bates, Jr. 423 votes

Vice President:

J.W. Crumpacker 422 votes

Secretary:

John C. Smith 424 votes

Treasurer:

Richard F. Larkin 419 votes

Directors:

Paul F. Ammons 304 votes

Thomas Brougham 286 votes

George R. Campbell 336 votes

Gary B. Weiss 291 votes

Julius Grigore (write-in) 2 votes

There were 179 no vote ballots. Since only three directors could be elected, we congratulate Messrs. Ammons, Campbell, and Weiss and all of the other officers for the 1994-1995 term.

Michael Demski, Chair

Scott 1994

Specialized Catalogue

Reviewed by Gilbert N. Plass

There are a large number of price changes for Canal Zone and the other U.S. Possessions in the Scott 1994 *Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps*. Scott is making a much greater effort now to have up-to-date prices in its catalogues than was the case in recent years. They are promptly studying the most recent auction realizations as well as price lists. This is very evident in the new catalogues.

The following table shows the comparison of just a few prices from the 1993 and the 1994 catalogues. It is obvious that some very large changes have been made.

Scott No.	1993 Cat.	1994 Cat.
1c	\$4000	\$15,000
1e	3500	4750
2c	2250	5000
3b	3000	4000
3c	3000	6000
10b	1350	2000
14d	1750	2000
14e	1750	2000
14f	750	850
15a	3300	6500
22d	350	450
39f	6000	6500
46d	1400	1500
52b	7000	7500
52d	2250	7500
52e	900	1000
56a	350	500
56b	350	500
60a	1500	2000
60b	750	800
61f	1200	1500
84 star pl. bl.	1000	1600
88a	3250	5000
90a	3750	5500
100a	2750	3000
102a	4000	5000
157a	7500	9000
J11a	3500	7000
J11b	2750	7000
J21a	2750	5000
UX1c	2750	3300
UX2e	3000	4000
UX3a	3000	4250

All large die proofs have large increases, typically \$750 raised to \$1000.

The changes listed in the table are just a small selection from the many prices that have been changed. Some of the lower to medium priced stamps have had their prices lowered. This brings them more into line with the current retail, which is now the price that Scott attempts to quote. Considering that copy for a bound volume must close about six months before publication, Scott has made a great effort to bring the collector the prices as they were on publication date.

Mail Sale Report

The 22nd mail sale is wrapped up. Here are some facts and figures about this successful sale. The sales total is \$73,561, which provided \$7,356 (10%) for running the sale. Total expenses came to \$4,993, which leaves a net of \$2,363 to be added to our treasury.

Many of you read the mail sale announcements that appear in the philatelic press, and we certainly appreciate the free publicity that is given. This year *Stamp Collector* put in the press release but *Linn's* failed us. As a result we were about 40 bid sheets short. *Linn's* has been contacted, and we hope to work out this problem in time for the next mail sale. Along with the reduced number of bids and the huge amount of Canal Zone material at various auctions during 1993, we believe we suffered a 15% reduction in total sales for the 1993 mail sale compared to previous sales. But we did come out on the plus side so no complaints.

There were 2858 bids recorded for the 808 lots sold which averages out to 3 1/2 bids per lot. Fifteen bids were submitted on lot 748; 14 bids on 743; and lots 15, 35, and 129 brought in 12 bids each. Out of 208 bidders 161 were successful (77%). There were 40 consignors, two of whom have provided material in all 22 sales. The catalog offered 931 lots of which 808 sold, 113 lots received no bids, 2 lots were withdrawn, and 8 lots were returned due to inaccurate descriptions. Total catalog and estimate of the lots sold came to \$123,806.

We are most fortunate in having a dedicated group to help with the sales. From the East Coast came George Campbell, Mike Demski, and George and Ginny Stilwell. From the West Coast the following: Bud Bibbins, Dick and Maggie Salz, and Russ Samuels (who put together the photo plates in the catalog). Without these volunteers there would be no mail sales; and, of course, if there were no consignors or bidders there also would be no mail sales; so thanks to all of you for making these mail sales such a success. It also might be pointed out all of these sales have entailed plane fares and food and lodging — every cent paid out of the pockets of the above named.

West Coast Mail Sale Committee

CANAL ZONE

Comprehensive Stock Including
singles, plate blocks, FDC's, FFC's,
B.O.B., stationery, covers and
collateral material

Send for Free Detailed List

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Phone (315) 488-0136

CZSG APS USPPS

Canal Zone Postal Savings

Canal Zone post offices, in common with other postal systems around the world, performed many functions unrelated to transmission of mail. One long-standing service was Postal Savings. The system was essentially a government-operated bank paying bank interest. Banking services were not generally available except in the two larger cities of Balboa and Cristobal. Hence, this was an important service established September 8, 1911 for most of the two dozen communities throughout the Zone. The Postal Savings system was abolished October 1, 1914 but later reestablished. It was well used; the balance on hand on its initial close of business (1914) was \$790,710. It was replaced by no-fee deposit money orders. The no-fee deposit money orders were limited to employees and residents and limited to \$100 (in \$5 increments) for each single deposit.

Two illustrations show "DUPLICATE CERTIFICATES" that have been redeemed and the use of the infrequently seen postal marking device "DIRECTOR OF POSTS". The forms are printed on ribbed salmon safety paper. They both have the imprint of the Panama Canal Press with printing orders of 500 each and the signature of the current Director of Posts. The first, issued for \$65 in Pedro Miguel in August 1952, was cashed January 1953 (Fig. 1). The 8-month holding period yielded 1% interest (probably 2% per annum). Note the imprint of Ent. DP-2. All of the imprints are shades of magenta to rose. The second certificate, also issued in Pedro Miguel, was for \$100 (Fig. 2). It was held 7 years and 4 months, from July 1953 until November 1960, and paid approximately 2% annually. Note the imprint Ent. DP-3.

Since these are the first of these certificates that I have seen, there may be points that have been missed. Additions and corrections and illustrations of other savings forms are in order as well as the dates of operation of the reinstated system.

David J. Leeds

SATW'S Third Annual Mail Bid Sale

Closing May 14, 1994
Incl: U.S. and Worldwide and a section devoted to CANAL ZONE material (consignments accepted through April 8)
For FREE catalogue send stamped, addressed envelope to:
SATW,
10990 SW 34 St., Miami, FL 33165

Fig. 1. Postal Savings Certificate (1947 Edition), Ent. DP-2.

Fig. 2. Postal Savings Certificate (1953 Edition), Ent. DP-3.

Designer Autographed Sheets

The designers of Canal Zone stamps are identified in the handbook *Canal Zone Stamps*. However, few examples of the designers' autographs have been noted. The illustration shows the signature of Gerald A. Doyle, Jr. in black ink on the

upper left selvage of the Boy Scout stamp, Scott #151.

Another example of autographed sheets may be seen in this issue in the article on Postage Due varieties. These are by a different designer. Reports of additional examples are requested.



Fig. 1. Designer Autographed Boy Scout Sheet.

WWII APO

An interesting article by Richard B. Graham, "WWII: the Panama Canal and its outposts", appeared in *Linn's* December 27, 1993, page 38. The one-page article reviews Western Hemisphere World War II APOs with the Canal as the focus. The discussion broadens our perspective and expands the vision of those of us who narrowly limit our interests to the Canal. It is well worth reading.

New Panama Canal Mail System Explained

The following article is reprinted from *The Panama Canal Spillway*, September 24, 1993. Jennifer Jones of the Panama Canal Commission Officer of Public Affairs writes:

"You should be aware that the current Mail System is not a postal system and is not related to the former Canal Zone postal system. The two systems operated independently until October 1, 1979, when the Canal Zone and its postal system were disestablished. Since that time, the Panama Canal organization has relied on the U.S. military postal system for mail service, with the Mail System providing administrative support within the organization."

Mail System employees face continuous challenge by Myrna A. Iglesias

An agency as big as the Panama Canal Commission receives a lot of correspondence from all over the world. In July alone, 136,325 pounds of mail were handled and \$13,013.73 was paid in postage.

The Administrative Services Division's Mail System is in charge of processing all incoming, outgoing and internal official mail for the Commission. Supervisor Eddy J. Smith says, "We do everything here that is done in a post office, even more because we also wrap up boxes and

deliver mail to military offices and to different offices in Panama City."

When the Canal Zone Postal Service was disestablished on October 1, 1979, as called for by the 1977 Panama Canal Treaty, the Panama Canal agency became entitled to use the U.S. military postal system, which operates under Department of Defense and U.S. postal regulations. All the agency's incoming and outgoing official mail is processed through Albrook. "That's the main postal distribution facility, and we use its service," Smith notes.

Incoming mail has to be picked up every weekday morning from Albrook. It is then taken to the Mail System's offices, where it is processed and, from there, distributed to Commission units on both sides of the Isthmus.

The Mail System has 13 employees on its rolls — 11 on the Pacific side and two on the Atlantic who work out of Gatun's Building 122. Two daily office mail runs are made to outlying Pacific-side offices — one in the morning and one in the afternoon — plus a morning trip to the Atlantic side and an afternoon press run for the Office of Public Affairs. Within the Administration Building, as many as eight mail runs might be made in a single day.

"The work in this office is continuous, and it has to be done," Smith says, "even if we are short-handed because someone is on vacation or sick." He adds that the

work can also involve lifting heavy packages. For example, in one day the unit handled about 350 boxes containing computers and accessories, each weighing between 28 and 43 pounds.

Records Management Branch Chief Jeanne Hinek says Smith "runs a tight ship." He does not allow the mail to sit unprocessed overnight, she explains. Everything is either delivered the day it is received or else placed in the appropriate cubbyhole for delivery early the next workday. Hinek adds that Smith and his employees work hard and that there is a great deal of team spirit and camaraderie among them.

In general, the busiest days for the Mail System are Mondays, because of the mail accumulated during the weekend, and Fridays because many offices send special correspondence on that day and also because of the distribution of the *Tropic Times* and *Panama Canal Spillway*.

Smith points out that all employees can help make mail service more efficient by using correct envelopes for official correspondence, typing in addresses correctly, complying with Mail System rules and deadlines and advising those who send them mail on how to address the correspondence properly. He explains that when mail is received without the correct address or name of the addressee, it requires special handling and time is spent unnecessarily determining who it should go to, which delays mail distribution.



Express delivery

Photo by Jaime Fernández
Mail clerks Edwin Espino, left, and Magín Navarrete pile boxes of all shapes and sizes onto the Mail System loading dock at the Administration Building. This shipment of express mail was sent from the United States on a two-day delivery schedule through the post office at Albrook Air Force Station.



Newspaper delivery

Photo by Jaime Fernández
Panama Canal Commission mail clerk Arturo Russell scans the headlines as he unloads issues of the U.S. Southern Command newspaper, *Tropic Times*. Every Friday, a mail clerk picks up the weekly from the Corozal printing plant and takes it to the La Boca Printing Office, where it is processed for distribution by roll and gang to Commission employees on both sides of the Isthmus. Every second Friday, the same routine is followed with the *Panama Canal Spillway*.

Movie Review

by David L. Farnsworth

The Panama Deception, directed by Barbara Trent, written and edited by David Kasper, and narrated by Elizabeth Montgomery. Theatrical distribution by The Empowerment Project (1992) and video release by Rhino Home Video (1993). Approximately 91 minutes.

This Academy Award winning documentary film has a definite point of view that many may consider anti-United States. The motives and conduct of United States policy toward Panama are placed in about as bad a perspective as possible without becoming outrageous. The first half of the movie deals with pre-"Just Cause" events from the creation of Panama. The second half focuses on "Operation Just Cause" and its aftermath.

The pre-invasion portion has film of the construction. Of course, the gold and silver division of the employees is a topic. Connections among the CIA, the Nicaraguan Contras, illegal drugs, and General Noriega are explored. The financial aid supposedly given by the United States government to presidential candidate Endara in 1989 is emphasized as an illegal activity. Probably anyone who has followed events in Panama or read a recent history of U.S.-Panama relations will learn very little from the first half of the movie. However, the production value is high throughout the whole movie, so it should hold the viewer's interest.

Readers may find the second half of the film more controversial. The premise is that the United States was trying to provoke a fight with the Panamanian Defense Forces (PDF) in December 1989, looking for an excuse to invade. The killing by the PDF of U.S. Lt. Robert Paz on the 16th is one example the film uses. It claims that he was an armed member of the "Hard Chargers" who were doing some of the provoking, whereas the United States military claims that Lt. Paz was just a passenger in a car that made a mistake at the PDF roadblock. President Bush is shown talking about this. The invasion started on the 20th.

Claims are made that American soldiers were "firing indiscriminately" at "civilian targets" without "mercy" and set houses on fire in a "coordinated" effort.

Another distressing topic is the U.S. military's relationship with the press. The narrator says that the press was kept away from the story and that U.S. troops confiscated cameras and film from reporters. It is asserted that Panamanian radio and television stations were taken over and "destroyed."

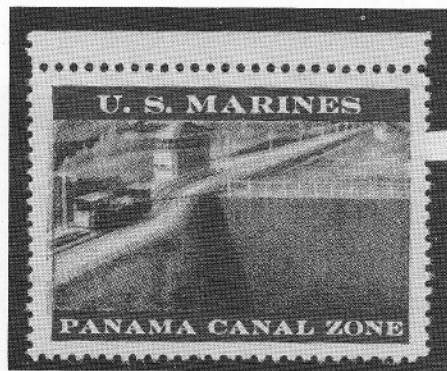
There are long segments showing devastated neighborhoods and interviews of Panamanian survivors and refugees. The narrator says "...the United States military undertook elaborate efforts to conceal the number of dead, how they died, and the location of their bodies." - all this accompanied by video of exhumations of

makeshift graves and such. The United States press and government are accused of "ethnocentrism" in caring only about American lives.

Finally, the question: Why did the United States invade Panama? is answered. The answer is *not* to rid Panama of General Noriega nor to establish democracy there. The goal was to destroy the PDF so that Panama would be unable to defend the Canal. This will allow the United States to keep its military presence and bases in Panama after the turn of the century.

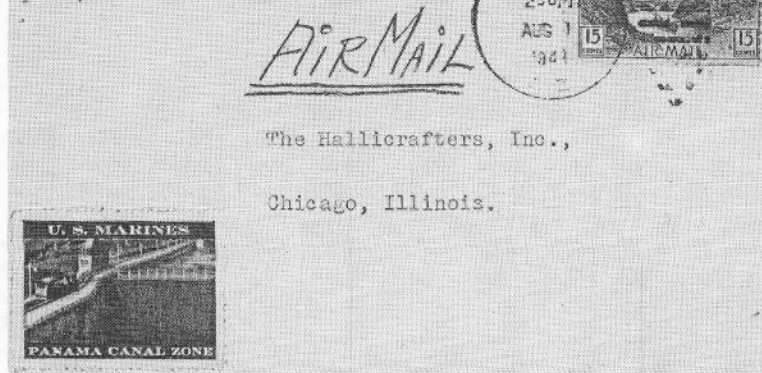
Panama Canal Labels III

Another Panama Canal label has turned up. This one, shown below, publicizing the U.S. Marines is on a cover from a Navy Lieutenant and mailed at Upham in August 1941. White letters in red panels read "U.S. MARINES" above, and "PANAMA CANAL ZONE" below the central design. The full color panel appears to be a somewhat stylized lower end approach to one of the locks. Dimensions of the design are 38 by 27 mm. It is lithographed and perforated 12 1/2. Major Ted Bahry, U.S.M.C., identified the item as part of a sheet of 16 issued by the Marine Corps Publicity Bureau in 1941, showing 16 different scenes of the Marine Corps around the world. All have a similar format but only a single of the sheet is of the Panama Canal.



U.S. Marine Corps Label.

Lt. F. J. BRUSH, USN,
U.S. Naval Air Station,
Upham, Canal Zone.



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